

FELINE SANITATION AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

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FELINE UPPER RESPIRATORY DISEASE COMPLEX

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- incubates 2-5 days
- clinical signs are fever, anorexia, diarrhea, sneezing, coughing, ocular and nasal discharge, open mouth breathing
- lasts 1-2 weeks

Feline Upper Respiratory Disease

- ▣ Cats are going to get sick with respiratory disease the longer that they are in your care
- ▣ There is a 5% increase for risk of URI for each day spent in the shelter---90% are ill by Day 20
- ▣ What is the most common cause of feline respiratory disease?
 - **MORE CATS IN THE SHELTER THAN IT CAN HOLD!!!**
- ▣ A 10 lb cat can sneeze up to 3 feet
- ▣ Is the leading cause of euthanasia among shelter cats
- ▣ Expensive to treat
- ▣ Can give the shelter a bad reputation of adopting out sick cats
- ▣ 30-60 % of cats received by the shelter are already carriers of disease

Feline Upper Respiratory Disease Complex

- ▣ Herpesvirus-
 - Infection can occur in utero
 - Can cause abortion
 - Infection of neonates
 - Hides in trigeminal nerve (brain)
 - Infected for life
 - Reactivated with stress

What Qualifies As Stress to a Cat?

- ▣ Being put in a shelter
- ▣ Being transported
- ▣ Being overly handled
- ▣ Being adopted
- ▣ Being around other cats
- ▣ Surgery
- ▣ Parturition
- ▣ Pregnancy

Feline Upper Respiratory Disease Complex

▣ Virus

- Herpes virus
- Calicivirus-lives in environment 18 days

▣ Bacteria

- Chlamydophila
- Bordetella-can be spread from cat to dog/dog to cat
- Staph

▣ Mycoplasma -poop

Feline Panleukopenia

- ▣ AKA feline distemper or feline parvovirus
- ▣ Parvovirus in kittens
- ▣ Causes sudden death- appear fine one minute, gone the next
- ▣ Vomiting, diarrhea, painful abdomen
- ▣ Abortion or infertility
- ▣ Kittens born to infected queens can have neurological signs

Rabies

- ▣ Free Roaming cats
- ▣ Indoor cat exposed to bats
- ▣ Unexplained injury

How Can We Prevent Disease Spreading?

- ▣ Practice good shelter sanitation
- ▣ Wash hands properly in between animals
- ▣ Handle healthy animals first, then progress to sick
- ▣ Have effective barriers in between yourself and the cat when handling
- ▣ Gloves? Full arm protection?
- ▣ Is it wise to leave them where they are?

How to Prevent Disease in Cats

- ▣ Wash your hands after each cat
- ▣ Keep their stress level to a minimum
 - Do not handle them unless you need to
 - Give them a place to hide
 - Keep loud noises to a minimum

Sanitation

- ▣ Removal of organic matter (cleaning)
- ▣ Application of a chemical product to inactivate pathogens (disinfection)
- ▣ Drying of the surface afterwards
- ▣ Proper rinsing and drying must be done to prevent inhalation of chemicals or chemical burns

What Needs to be Cleaned?

- ▣ Germs are spread by hands on doorknobs, clothing, carriers, exam tables, instruments, and transport vehicles
- ▣ These areas can have more germs than the cages or kennels themselves
- ▣ In one study, the “get acquainted” room and AC vehicles had more pathogens than the newly cleaned caged areas

Ringworm

- ▣ Studies have found that only bleach at 1:10 ratio applied twice at an interval of 24 hours was reliably effective

Hand Sanitation

- ▣ Three methods: gloves, washing with soap and water, hand sanitizers
- ▣ Use gloves during outbreak or when handling sick animals
- ▣ Always wash hands after removing gloves
- ▣ Use hand sanitizers that contain 60-80% ethanol or isopropyl alcohol

Clothing and Disease Transmission

- ▣ Animal fur contains viruses, bacteria, and fungus (i.e. ringworm)
- ▣ Some pathogens such as calicivirus and ringworm cluster around hair follicles
- ▣ Staff should change clothing or wear protective garments when treating sick animals
- ▣ Use long sleeve disposable gloves

Order of Cleaning

- ▣ Juvenile animals in adoption areas
- ▣ Adults in adoption areas
- ▣ Juvenile animals in stray holding areas
- ▣ Adults in stray holding areas
- ▣ Sick Juvenile animals
- ▣ Sick adults
- ▣ To take the quiz go to:
<http://www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-animal-care-disease-management/test-your-sanitation-smarts>